

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

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INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

FBIS OKINAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: NEW ATTENTION TO TRAINING SUCCESSORS IN CHINA

1. SPURRED BY THE RECENT DEATHS OF KANG SHENG AND CHOU EN-LAI AND THE REALIZATION THAT THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP GENERATION WILL NOT OCCUPY CENTER STAGE MUCH LONGER, PEKING IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAS INCREASINGLY TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM OF PROMOTING YOUNG LEADERS TO POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY. IN DOING SO, IT ACKNOWLEDGES IMPLICITLY THAT BAD BLOOD THAT STILL REMAINS BETWEEN THE YOUNGSTERS WHO GOT THEIR POLITICAL START IN THE HEADY DAYS OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND THEIR VICTIMS, MANY OF THEM VETERAN CADRE WHO HAVE RESUMED HIGH-RANKING POSITIONS IN THE STATE AND PARTY HIERARCHIES.

2. PEOPLE'S DAILY OF JANUARY 19 AND 20 DEVOTED A PAGE EACH TO ARTICLES RECOUNTING SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO PROMOTE YOUNG CADRES. BOTH HERE AND IN EARLIER ARTICLES, IT WAS EMPHASIZED

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THAT YOUNG CADRES ARE INEXPERIENCED AND LIABLE TO MAKE

MISTAKES, AND THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF THE SENIOR CADRES TO HELP THEM. A JANUARY 7 ARTICLE WARNED AGAINST MAKING A FUSS OVER MINOR SHORTCOMINGS AND USING THEM AS AN EXCUSE TO DENIGRATE THE YOUNG LEADERS. CERTAIN "STRONG POINTS" OF YOUNG CADRE, SUCH AS THEIR ENTHUSIASM, ARE MENTIONED ALMOST IN PASSING, BUT THE STRESS IS ON THE NEED TO ACCEPT THEM IN SPITE OF THEIR SHORTCOMINGS, IN ORDER TO BUILD THE "THREE-IN-ONE" COMBINATIONS OF OLD, MIDDLE-AGED AND YOUNG WHICH ARE TO ENSURE A SMOOTH GENERATIONAL TRANSFER IN CHINA.

3. A VIVID ARGUMENT FOR PROMOTING JUNIOR CADRES NOW IS PRESENTED IN A JANUARY 17 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE. IT COMPARES THE PROBLEM OF SUCCESSION TO A RELAY RACE, WHERE THE SECOND RUNNER MUST START RUNNING AT FULL SPEED BEFORE HE TAKES THE BATON, AND THE RUNNER PASSING THE BATON MUST NOT STOP ABRUPTLY AT THE FINISH LINE IF THE TEAM IS TO WIN THE RACE. THE IMPLICATION IS CLEAR; YOUNG CADRES MUST BE PROMOTED NOW TO GAIN EXPERIENCE WHILE OLDER CADRES PHASE OUT ONLY GRADUALLY; IF THIS PROCESS IS DELAYED UNTIL THE OLDER GENERATION HAS PASSED AWAY, CHINA WILL LOSE VALUABLE MOMENTUM.
CROSS

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